Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1 - 3 and 6 - 10 are pending in this case, and new claims 11 - 15 are added by this amendment. Claims 1 - 3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Olson 4,843,983.

However, Olson does not show planter structure wherein a hollow toolbar defines a portion of a truss and provides structural support. Note that Olson shows plastic telescoping pneumatic conduits which are not designed to nor do they lend structural support to the toolbar and as such do not add rigidity to the toolbar in the manner of a truss member.

Further, claim 1 is amended to set forth that, unlike Olson, the pneumatic manifold of the center frame section is pneumatically coupled to the left and right wing frame sections by a resilient bell that forms a closed pneumatic path between the center frame section and the left and right wing frame sections at locations offset inwardly from ends of the center frame when the frame is in its the planting configuration. Olson does not show a resilient bell but rather a rigid non-deformable funnel 54 and couples his plastic conduits at the ends rather than at a location offset from the end (see column 2, lines 52+ of Olson). Therefore, claim 1 and claims 2 -3 and 6 - 10 dependent therefrom are believed to be in order for allowance.

Newly added independent claim 11 sets forth that the left and right wing frame sections define overlapping areas with the center frame section. The coupling structure is located in the overlapping areas of the frame between the wing frame sections and the center frame section inwardly of the ends of the center frame section and pneumatically coupling the hollow pneumatic portion of the center frame section with the hollow toolbars when the wing frame sections are in the planting configuration. Olson does not show or suggest such overlapping areas of frame sections with coupling structure in the overlapping areas. Therefore, claim 11 and claims 12 - 15 dependent therefrom are believed to be in order for allowance.

Claims 12 and 13 set forth truss structure, which as mentioned above, is not shown or suggested by the Olson structure which employs plastic telescoping pneumatic conduits. Such plastid telescoping conduits do not add rigidity to the toolbar in the manner of a truss member

Claim 14 sets forth that the wing frame sections and the center frame section comprise tubular hollow beam members of rectangular cross section, and the coupling structure extends perpendicularly from a face of the center frame section. The coupling in Olson extends axially from an end of a round conduit.

Claim 15 states that the coupling structure comprises resilient bell-shaped members compressed between the face of the center frame section and a rearwardly extending faces of the left and right wing frame sections when the wing frame sections are in the planting position. No such structure is shown or suggested by the Olson structure which includes a rigid funnel 54, alone or in any combination with the remaining references.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,

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